

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ASUSTEK COMPUTER, INC.,	:
	:
Plaintiff,	:
	Case No: 08-CV-02770 (CM)
- against -	:
	ANSWER AND CROSS-
SHANGHAI EASTERN FUDART	CLAIMS
TRANSPORT SERVICES CO., LTD.,	:
CHINA EASTERN AIRLINES CO., LTD.,	:
CHINA CARGO AIRLINES, AIR CHINA,	:
DART EXPRESS (TAIWAN) LTD., ULTRA	:
AIR CARGO, INC., TRUXTON LOGISTICS	:
CORP. and LOS ANGELES EL PASO	:
EXPRESS LEE, INC.,	:
	:
Defendants.	
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Defendant Air China Ltd. (incorrectly sued herein as "Air China" and hereinafter "Air China"), by its attorneys Clyde & Co US LLP, answers plaintiff's Complaint ("Complaint") as follows:

1. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraphs First through Sixth of the Complaint and leaves all questions of law for the Court.

2. Denies the allegations in paragraph Seventh of the Complaint except admits that Air China is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of the People's Republic of China with a place of business at 150 East 52nd Street, 31st Floor, New York, New York 10022.

3. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraphs Eighth through Tenth of the Complaint and leaves all questions of law for the Court.

4. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraphs Eleventh through Fifteenth of the Complaint to the extent they are directed toward parties other than Air China. Denies the allegations in paragraphs Eleventh through Fifteenth of the Complaint to the extent they are directed toward Air China or may be construed to assert a claim against Air China, except admits that Air China contracted to transport a shipment of goods from Shanghai, China to Los Angeles, California pursuant to Air China air waybill 999-8791-9963, and leaves all questions of law for the Court.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

5. The Complaint fails to state a claim against Air China upon which relief can be granted.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

6. The transportation out of which the subject matter of this action arose was "international carriage" within the meaning of a treaty of the United States known as the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air, done at Montreal on 28 May 1999, ICAO Doc. No. 9740 (entered into force November 4, 2003), *reprinted in* S. Treaty Doc. 106-45, 1999 WL 333292734 (hereinafter "Montreal Convention"), and the rights of the parties are governed exclusively by the provisions of the said Montreal Convention.

**AS AND FOR A THIRD
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

7. Pursuant to Articles 18 and/or 20 of the Montreal Convention, Air China's tariffs, Air China's conditions of carriage as set forth in the relevant contract of carriage and/or other relevant law, Air China is not liable to plaintiff for the loss or damage described in the Complaint

because the alleged loss or damage (a) did not occur during the period of carriage by air, and/or (b) was caused or contributed to by an inherent defect, quality or vice of the cargo, defective packaging of the cargo and/or the negligence of plaintiff, its agents, servants, or employees.

**AS AND FOR A FOURTH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

8. The liability of Air China if any, is limited pursuant to Article 22 of the Montreal Convention and/or Air China's tariffs and conditions of carriage as set forth in the relevant contract of carriage.

**AS AND FOR A FIFTH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

9. Pursuant to its tariffs and conditions of carriage as set forth in the relevant contract of carriage, and/or the applicable local law, Air China is not liable to plaintiffs or, in the alternative, Air China's liability is limited.

**AS AND FOR A SIXTH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

10. Plaintiff's alleged damages resulted from the acts or omissions of parties other than Air China and for whom Air China is not responsible and, therefore, Air China is not liable to plaintiff or, alternatively, Air China's liability to plaintiff is partial only and should be reduced in accordance with applicable law.

**AS AND FOR A SEVENTH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

11. The alleged damages complained of were not proximately caused by any negligence or culpable conduct on the part of Air China.

**AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

12. Air China is not liable to plaintiff for the loss or damage described in the Complaint because the alleged loss or damage was caused or contributed to by the negligence of plaintiff or its agents, servants or employees.

**AS AND FOR A NINTH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

13. Plaintiff failed to mitigate its damages, if any, and, therefore, plaintiff is barred from recovering any such damages from Air China.

**AS AND FOR A TENTH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

14. The alleged damages were caused and brought about by an intervening and superseding cause and were not caused by Air China, or by a person for whom Air China is responsible.

**AS AND FOR AN ELEVENTH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

15. Pursuant to the Montreal Convention and/or Air China's tariffs and conditions of carriage, Air China is not liable to plaintiff because plaintiff failed to dispatch timely written notice of claim to Air China of the loss or damage alleged in the Complaint.

**AS AND FOR A TWELFTH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

16. Pursuant to the Montreal Convention and/or Air China's tariffs and conditions of contract set forth in the relevant contract of carriage, plaintiff may not maintain an action against Air China and/or Air China is not liable to plaintiff for the loss described in the Complaint because the alleged loss did not occur while the cargo was in Air China's possession or the possession of its employees or agents.

**AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

17. Plaintiff's Complaint should be dismissed as the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York is an improper venue and/or the action should be transferred pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1404.

**AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

18. Plaintiff's Complaint should be dismissed pursuant to the doctrine of *forum non conveniens*.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CROSS-CLAIM AGAINST DART EXPRESS (TAIWAN) LTD.,
ULTRA AIR CARGO, INC., TRUXTON LOGISTICS CORP. and LOS ANGELES EL
PASO EXPRESS LEE, INC.**

19. Any loss or damage sustained as alleged in the Complaint was caused solely by reason of the negligence of Dart Express (Taiwan) Ltd., Ultra Air Cargo, Inc., Truxton Logistics Corp., and/or Los Angeles El Paso Express Lee, Inc. (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Co-Defendants"), without any negligence or culpable conduct on the part of Air China contributing thereto.

20. If plaintiff obtains a judgment against Air China for the loss or damage alleged in the Complaint, such liability will have been brought about or caused solely by the careless, negligent or culpable acts or omissions of Co-Defendants, their agents, servants or employees, and Air China therefore is entitled to full indemnity in an amount equal to the total sum of any such judgment, together with costs and disbursements of the within action.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND
CROSS-CLAIM AGAINST CO-DEFENDANTS**

21. Any loss or damage sustained as alleged in the Complaint was caused in substantial part by reason of the negligence of Co-Defendants, without any negligence or culpable conduct on

the part of Air China contributing thereto.

22. If plaintiff obtains a judgment against Air China for the loss or damage alleged in the Complaint, such liability will have been brought about and caused, in substantial part, by the careless, negligent or culpable acts or omissions of Co-Defendants, their agents, servants, or employees. Air China, therefore, is entitled to contribution from Co-Defendants in accordance with their relative culpability for plaintiff's injuries.

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY OF FOREIGN LAW

23. Pursuant to Rule 44.1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Air China hereby gives notice that it may raise issues concerning the law of a foreign country in this matter.

WHEREFORE, Air China demands judgment dismissing the Complaint in its entirety or, alternatively, judgment limiting its liability pursuant to the foregoing, together with costs and disbursements. In the event a judgment is entered in favor of plaintiff and against Air China, said defendant demands that it have a judgment over and against Co-Defendants for the full amount for which defendant Air China is found to be liable to plaintiff.

Dated: New York, New York
May 30, 2008

CLYDE & CO US LLP

By: Andrew J. Hafakas/LS
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Air China Ltd.

To: Matthew T. Loesberg, Esq.
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Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Los Angeles, California 90045

Dart Express (Taiwan) Ltd.
Room A & D, 20/F
International Trade Building
No. 388 Hubin South Road, 361004
Xiamen, China

Ultra Air Cargo, Inc.
555 S. Isis Avenue
Inglewood, California 90301

Truxton Logistics Corp.
P.O. Box 83104
Los Angeles, California 90045

Los Angeles El Paso Express Lee, Inc.
1700 Delta Drive
El Paso, Texas 79901

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

Mariana Nannarone, being duly sworn, deposes and says that deponent is not a party of this action, is over 18 years of age and resides in Brooklyn, New York. On May 30, 2008 deponent served the within **ANSWER AND CROSS-CLAIMS** upon:

Matthew T. Loesberg, Esq.
McDermott & Radzik, LLP
Wall Street Plaza
88 Pine Street
New York, New York 10005
(212) 376-6400
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Ultra Air Cargo, Inc.
555 S. Isis Avenue
Inglewood, California 90301

Truxton Logistics Corp.
P.O. Box 83104
Los Angeles, California 90045

Shanghai Eastern Fudart Transport
Services Co., Ltd.
5481 W. Imperial Highway, Suite 216
Los Angeles, California 90045

Los Angeles El Paso Express Lee, Inc.
1700 Delta Drive
El Paso, Texas 79901

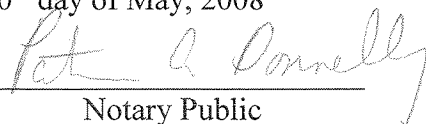
Dart Express (Taiwan) Ltd.
Room A & D, 20/F
International Trade Building
No. 388 Hubin South Road, 361004
Xiamen, China

The address(es) designated by said attorney(s) for that purpose by depositing a true copy thereof enclosed in a post-paid properly addressed wrapper, in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within the State of New York.



Mariana Nannarone

Sworn to before me this
30th day of May, 2008



Notary Public

PATRICIA A. DONNELLY
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01DO5087441
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires Nov. 30, 2009